

Blocks & Bricks

Church for Minecrafters and Builders

February 2027

GUIDE FOR LEADERS

- "Blocks" activities are for Minecrafters. "Bricks" are alternative activities for Lego, junk modelling etc. – a Plan B in case of a technology fail, or for children who prefers craf
- Use at home or in church during worship.
- Minecrafters can stay in church while quietly creating in Minecraft or go out in a separate group.
- Minecrafters ("Blocks") and builders ("Bricks") share what they have been working on at the end of the service.
- Technical guidelines at the end of this booklet give hints for getting started.
- Scan QR code for an online version of this booklet with clickable links.

GUIDE FOR MINECRAFTERS AND BUILDERS

- Read, listen to or watch the story first. Use headphones if watching in church!
- Minecrafters:
    - create a world using the suggested Bedrock seed. Use Creative Mode and Peaceful, unless it says otherwise.
    - If sharing a world with others, be kind! No griefing!!
- Builders: Choose a craft (e.g. Lego, junk modelling, playdough)
- Read the suggested activities and get inspired!
- If in church, pay attention to what is going on around you:
    - Singing? Bop about!
    - Praying? Pray too!
- After the service, share your thoughts with everyone you can!

WEEK ONE - THE TRANSFIGURATION (Transfiguration Sunday)

Mark 9: 2-9

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfT5mInsr9A

BLOCKS SEED: 4012

Have a go dyeing and then cleaning something in Minecraft. For example, create a sheep pen and fill it with sheep. Dye the sheep a colour of your choice and then shear the sheep to get the dyed wool.

Next, build a pool of water – a "washing machine" and put the dyed wool into the pool. Place an underwater crafting table and combine the dyed wool with bonemeal to turn it white or use white dye.

Alternatively, use two cauldrons with dyed water to first dye some leather armour a colour of your choice, and then turn it back to its original colour (add orange, then yellow, pink and two browns to the cauldron to get the right colour).

BRICKS

Use an old rag or T-shirt and have fun staining it with things like ketchup, mustard, grass etc.

Now try hand washing it, first with just water, and then with hand soap and then with a laundry detergent (check for allergies and/or wear gloves). Do the stains come out? What is most effective? Are there any traditional remedies such as vinegar or salt you could try?

PRAYER

When Jesus is on the mountain, his clothes become "shining white — whiter than anyone in the world could wash them". This isn't due to heavenly laundry powder but is a signal that in that moment Jesus is fully with God, a sign that Jesus is the Messiah.

Pray that, like the disciples, you will hear and follow God's message: "This is my own dear Son — listen to him!"

WEEK TWO - THE BAPTISM AND TEMPTATION OF JESUS (1st in Lent)

Mark 1: 9-15

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwTZdjU8fWc

BLOCKS SEED: 13579

For a challenge, switch to survival mode and hardcore difficulty. Can you survive for two Minecraft days in the desert? If you are on your own device (so you can come back to the task whenever you like), you might want to try for the full 40 days!

If you prefer creative mode, then think about how angels might have helped Jesus? Maybe you could use barrier blocks to keep an area safe from wild animals – even though you can't see the blocks normally, they are there protecting you. Or maybe the wild animals are a comfort, showing the wonder of God's creation in the desert. Maybe the angels could direct the animals to Jesus instead!

BRICKS

Make a list of all the things there are in church, or school, to keep you safe. For example, smoke detectors, alarms, rules, railings.

Imagine you have dropped some Lego bricks on the floor – it is very painful if you step on them! What could you do to keep people safe from this danger (assuming you aren't able to tidy them away!!). Design a safety poster, railing, alarm or any other solution!

PRAYER

Angels help Jesus while he is in the desert. They are a constant reminder of God's love, which was expressed during Jesus' baptism. There are reminders of God's care that we can spot too, whether that is in safety devices designed to protect us, or in the wonder of creation around us.

Say a big thank you to God that he is with us always, surrounding us with his love, even in the most difficult of times.

WEEK 3 - JESUS SPEAKS ABOUT HIS SUFFERING AND DEATH (2nd in Lent)

Mark 8: 31-38

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaNhIcKZZqk

BLOCKS SEED: 1731

Try to build a trap of certain doom – something that leads you from one peril to another so that it would be impossible to survive. This could include lava lakes, falls from height, a cave full of spiders or any other peril you can think of. Switch to survival and test how perilous your trap is. Is there an escape? If so, go back to creative and increase the peril!

Now imagine someone tells you that you have to pass through that trap, maybe in hardcore difficulty, in order to win the game. Would you believe them? Would your friends try to tell you that isn't how the game works?

BRICKS

Build a model of a perilous path. This could be a marble run where it is impossible for the marble to reach the end, or a Lego structure with bricks that will fall down if you press on them. It could be junk modelling with holes concealed by tissue paper and filled with spiky cocktail sticks. However you build it, the path must lead to certain disaster!

PRAYER

The path that Jesus must take will lead to certain disaster by all the rules of the world. He has to die. And yet when we follow God's way, we see that this isn't disaster, but the ultimate victory!

Pray that we might trust God and follow Jesus, even when the world around us tries to persuade us not to.

WEEK 4 - JESUS GOES TO THE TEMPLE (3rd in Lent)

John 2: 13-22

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51-zChvdiSk

BLOCKS SEED: 29151576

Build something that is in the wrong place for its purpose. For example, you might build an elaborate house, temple or palace, and plant a wheat field inside it, or start a pig farm.

Alternatively, fence off a piece of land, and place a bed, rug, table and comfy seating area in the field!

Can you think of any other ideas for things in the wrong place? A sun lounger on a snowy mountain?

Another idea is to build a temple, fill it with wandering traders, and then try to chase them all out, along with their llamas!

BRICKS

Use Lego or junk modelling to build something that is completely out of place. For example, a sofa in the middle of a field, or a cow living in a house. You can be very inventive!

You could also draw a picture of something out of place, for example, someone wearing a swimming costume in church, or going swimming in a suit and tie!

PRAYER

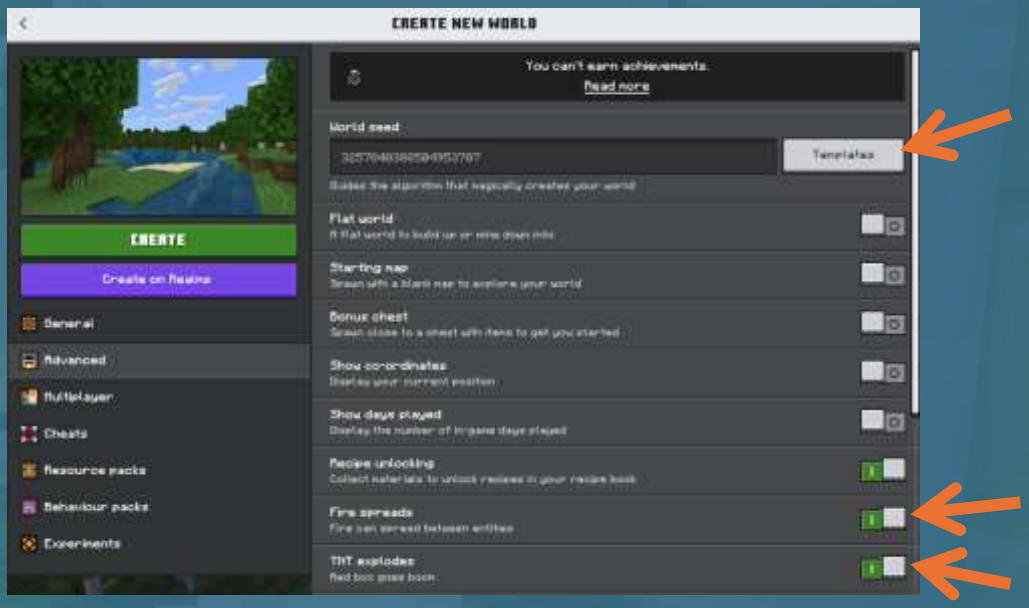
The traders were in the wrong place! The temple was for God, not shopping! In fact, Jesus says *he* is the temple where people can encounter God, and he will prove his authority by rising from the dead.

Pray that when we get distracted and fill our minds with the wrong things, that Jesus will bring us back on track, so we continue to trust in him.

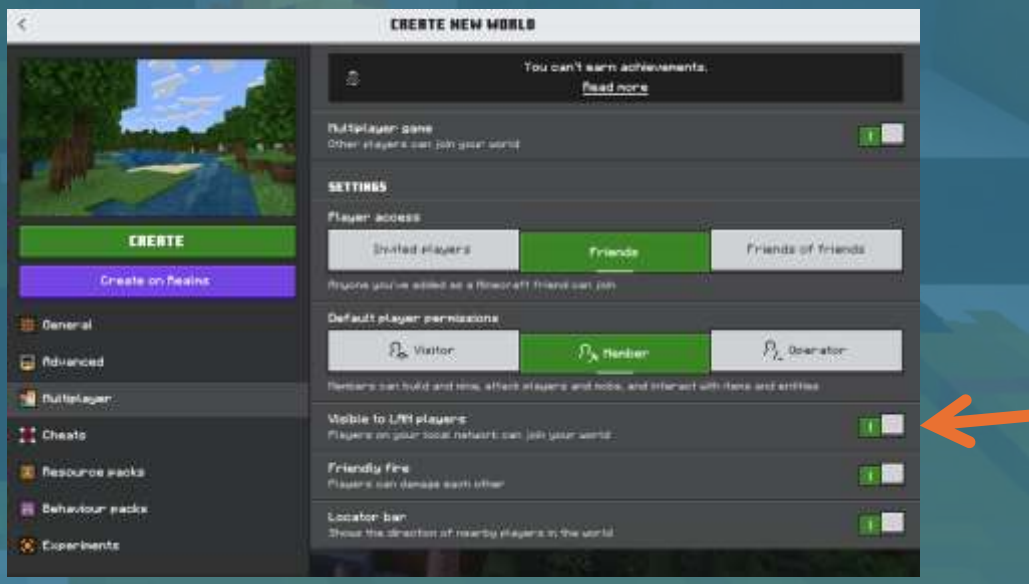
HOW TO CREATE A WORLD WITH A SEED

First, on the "General" tab set the world to Creative and Peaceful (unless instructions say otherwise).

On the "Advanced" tab, enter the seed. It might also be a good idea to switch off "TNT explodes" and "Fire spreads":



For a shared game, under Multiplayer, make sure "Visible to LAN players" is switched on:



Finally, under "Cheats", switch the top option to on:



TECHNICAL GUIDELINES

You will need:

- Minecraft installed on a phone, tablet or laptop.
- No internet connection. These activities have been designed to work offline.

Sharing worlds (optional - internet required):

- Up to six devices can join the same Minecraft world
  - World must be visible on the LAN (local area network). Minecrafters will know how to do this!
  - Nintendo Switch devices will only be able to see each other, unless they have an extra subscription, so may need their own group.
  - Needs supervision (as may be disputes if work is damaged, or something hurtful is put in the chat).
  - Consider disabling the chat.
  - Very young children and beginners should avoid shared worlds in case of accidental damage.
- For more than six devices, you can either split the Minecrafters into multiple groups, with a shared world for each group, or you can run a Minecraft Server. Contact minecraft@kidlingtonmethodists.org.uk for more information on Minecraft servers.
- Neither option publishes anything to the wider internet. They are only visible to devices on the same network.

Sharing builds:

- It is important to view, discuss and share the Minecrafters' work after the service.
  - Look at the builds on the Minecrafters' devices and ask them what they have built and why.
  - Encourage them to take screenshots of their work.
  - Send screenshots to minecraft@kidlingtonmethodists.org.uk to go on our gallery.
  - Even better - display them on a projector screen in your own church after the service for everyone to see!

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